

The District 3 Slate

August 2002

County Supervisor Pam Slater

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- Supervisor Pam Slater



County Supervisor
Pam Slater

Dear friends:

As August races us to embrace fall's arrival, many of us have thoughts of getting our children ready for their return to school.

Returning to the classroom is more than a trip to the store for new lunchbox or notebook. Now is a good time to review your child's medical records to ensure they have all the necessary immunizations. To ensure all vaccinations are current, call your health-care provider.

Another bit of advice I like to share is for parents to visit their kids' schools prior to the first day of class so they are familiar with any room changes made during the summer months.

Finally, enjoy the precious minutes with your kids when driving to school. Be watchful for others. These moments you will remember years from now. And guess what? So will your children. These are the simple moments that fill our lives.

Pam Slater

Summer Is Here: Where Will Our Water Be When We Need It?

Summer's dog days are barking at us. Our minds wander from work to play; children proudly wear bronze tans earned from hours spent at the beach or pool. But the heat of August also spikes our water use, which is bad news in this drought year. Already, the Colorado River system that provides 65 percent of all water consumed in Southern California is stressed. The river and its storage lakes are down 8 million acre-feet (1 acre-foot of water is 326,000 gallons, equal to what is used by a household of eight in one year).

We all can help alleviate the stress on this overused system by being smart in our use of water. Avoid overwatering lawns and landscape. Watch those shower times. Fix any drips (you would be surprised how much water is lost, one drop at a time!).

These efforts, done collectively, will



help.

But there are other steps that need to be taken. Supervisor Cox and I encourage the board to support Proposition 50, the "Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002." This act authorizes \$3.44 billion in bonds for water-related purposes, including implementation of the CALFED Bay Delta Program, and makes other improvements so that California stays within the limits of the Colorado River agreement.

Please join me in supporting Prop 50 – together, we can ensure every Californian has unfettered access to clean, cool water.

MAKE A NEW FRIEND — FOR LIFE



There is plenty of love left at the San Diego Animal Shelter, which has nursed back to health more than 60 dogs seized from a dilapidated Valley Center kennel. Many of the dogs – King Charles and English toy spaniels and Yorkshire terriers – have found new homes. But there are others who long for a loving family, a caring home, a friend to walk with. Find your ideal four-footed companion online at http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/cnty/cntydepts/community/animal_control/adoptionmain.html.

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Campaign Aims To Preserve Canyons

San Diego County's neighborhood canyons and creeks are natural jewels, showcasing myriad hidden wonders while providing nesting areas for endangered varieties of plants and animals. From Tecolote Canyon through Penasquitos north to Encinitas and east to Escondido, these numerous finger canyons interlock to form vital links in an eco-system fighting illegal encroachment.

Yet these precious jewels still need to be polished and taken care of. Continuing my support for the natural environment, I have earmarked \$20,000 in community project funding to the San Diego chapter of the Sierra Club for its San Diego Canyons and Creeks Preservation Campaign. This campaign fosters an awareness and appreciation of these urban canyons, their open spaces and natural habitats. Rose Creek Canyon, which borders University City, UCSD and Clairemont, will be the first canyon to be supported.

Protection of these urban canyons are paramount if we are to maintain a balance in our neighborhoods. These can-



yons – Rose, Tecolote, Navajo and San Dieguito, to name a few – provide recreational opportunities for residents, add a natural element to our urban design, and – most important – are at the core of our urban watersheds, filtering much of the runoff before it spills into our lagoons and ocean.

Our canyons are part of us. We may overlook them but we cannot forget them.

Supervisors Crack Down On Tobacco Displays Targeting Kids

While nationwide teen-age smoking is down, the battle against big tobacco is far from over. Companies still use subtle methods to entice our youth into trying that cigarette or bit of smokeless tobacco.

For all efforts to dramatize the dangers of smoking, too many children and teen-agers each year still take that first puff. Academy Award-winning writer Joe Eszterhas now opposes the same images he produced in such films as "Flash Dance" and "Basic Instinct."

The California Department of Health Services estimates one

out of every two smokers took their first puff before the age of 14; nine out of 10 began smoking prior to age 19. In San Diego County, 10,000 teens begin smoking each year; one-third will die from tobacco-related illnesses.

This "relationship" is promoted through the use of strategically placed display materials that associate smoking with being "cool," manly or sexy.

To discourage this association, the Board of Supervisors, at my urging, passed the Youth Tobacco Control Ordinance that discourages the display and promotion of tobacco products in the unincorporated areas. This ordinance:

- Bans self-service tobacco displays, including those for cigars and smokeless tobacco.
- Requires "No Sale to Minors" signage.
- Bans the sale of unpackaged cigarettes.
- End free sampling of tobacco products.

By reducing the overtly visual messages bombarding our youth, we reduce the temptation to take that first puff. The best habit is the one never started.

Helping Senior Citizens Stay Active

Seniors in Del Mar will soon find it easier to get around, courtesy of a new van that is being purchased in conjunction with Del Mar Community Connection. I allocated \$10,000 in community projects funding to purchase the transportation van so that seniors can get to medical appointments and recreational centers.

Loss of mobility is one of the top fears seniors confront. Having reliable, dedicated transportation allows seniors to retain their independence and social connections. The Aging and Independent Services Division of the county Health and Human Services also allocated \$10,000 to the purchase.

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